

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A funds investment system for managing funds that have been allocated to a plurality of asset manager programs through a plurality of intermediate allocations, the most subordinate allocations representing the allocation of funds to an asset manager program with all superior intermediate allocations effected external to any asset manager program, with each intermediate allocation of funds according to a predefined rule, the system including:

a receiving means for receiving data relating to the value of funds held by the plurality of asset manager programs;

a calculating means for determining the value of intermediate allocations that would have led to the distribution of funds to individual asset manager programs according to the value data received;

a comparison means for comparing the determined intermediate allocations with the predefined rules for same; and

the calculating means determining a new allocation of funds to asset managers in accordance with the predefined rules for intermediate allocations in the event that a variance greater than a predetermined amount exists between the determined intermediate allocation and the predefined rules for same.

16. (Original) A funds investment system according to claim 15 wherein the determined new allocation of funds distribution to asset managers is provided to a user by a data output means thus reporting the new distribution required to maintain the integrity of the predefined intermediate allocation rules.

17. (Currently Amended) A funds investment system according to ~~either~~ claim 15 wherein a data input means is operated by the user to request a calculation to determine the options that are available to effect the new allocation of funds.

18. (Original) A funds investment system according to claim 17 wherein the selection of an option and effecting the transfer of funds between asset managers to accord with the new distribution is automated.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing funds that have. been allocated to a plurality of asset manager programs through a network of intermediate allocations, the most subordinate allocations representing the allocation of funds to an asset manager program with all superior intermediate allocations effected external to any asset manager program, and where each intermediate allocation accords with a pre-defined rule wherein said computer program includes computer instruction code for executing tasks including:

- code for receiving data relating to the value of funds held by the plurality of asset manager programs;

- code for determining the intermediate allocations that would have led to the distribution of funds to individual asset manager programs according to the value data received;

- code for comparing the determined intermediate allocations with the pre-defined rules for same and determining whether a variance greater than a predetermined amount exists between the determined intermediate allocation and the pre-defined rules for same; and

- code for calculating a new allocation of funds to asset managers in accordance with the predefined rules for intermediate allocations.

23. (Original) A computer program according to claim 22 wherein the computer program further includes computer instruction code for reporting the calculated new allocation of funds.

24. (Original) A computer program according to claim 23 wherein the computer program further includes computer instruction code for receiving an instruction from a user to effect a transfer of funds to each most subordinate allocation to accord with the calculated new allocation.

25. (Original) A computer program according to claim 23 wherein the computer program further includes computer instruction code for transferring funds to accord with the new allocation.

26. (Original) In a data communications network including communication devices enabling communication between a user and a funds investment system, a method of investing funds with asset manager programs by distributing total funds available for investment to a plurality of asset manager programs said distribution effected by performing the method step of performing a plurality of intermediate allocations through a network of allocations, the most subordinate allocations representing the allocation of funds to an asset manager program with all superior intermediate allocations effected external to any asset manager program, each intermediate allocation according with predefined rules supplied to the system by the user over the communications network and repeating the step of performing intermediate allocations until all available funds are allocated with asset manager programs.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 26 wherein the communication devices used by the user include any one or more of the following:

- a laptop personal computer;
- a notebook personal computer;
- a wireless laptop personal computer;
- a wireless notebook personal computer;
- a cell phone; or
- a cell phone having connection facilities to the data communications network.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 26 wherein the predefined rules for intermediate allocations are established to apportion funds according to an investor's preferred distribution of investment funds to particular assets or classes of assets.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 26 wherein the intermediate allocations form a network of allocations and an intermediate allocation receives an apportionment of funds from a superior allocation and apportions funds to a subordinate allocation.

30. (Original) In a data communications network including communication devices enabling communication between a user and a funds investment system, a method of investing funds with asset manager programs by distributing total funds available for investment to a plurality of asset manager programs through a network of allocations, the most subordinate allocations representing the allocation of funds to an asset manager program with all superior intermediate allocations effected external to any asset manager program, said distribution effected by performing the method step of performing a plurality of intermediate allocations each intermediate allocation according with predefined rules supplied to the system by the user over the communications network and repeating the step of performing intermediate allocations until all available funds are allocated with asset manager programs:

wherein the method includes the step of receiving from asset managers, to whom funds have been allocated, a valuation of the invested funds in each of the asset manager programs and determining a value at each superior intermediate allocation, the value being determined from valuations at subordinate allocations.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the valuation of intermediate allocations occurs periodically.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the valuation of intermediate allocations occurs as a result of a predefined trigger.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33 wherein the predefined trigger is a value of funds with an asset manager program exceeding a predetermined amount.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the valuations of the intermediate allocations may be compared with the predefined allocation rules to determine the extent of variance with respect to those rules.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the method includes rules relating to the allowable variance of allocation valuations as compared with the predefined rules regarding intermediate allocations and in the event that the allowable variance is exceeded, a warning is provided.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 36 wherein the allowable variance is exceeded and the method includes the generation of recommended actions for the distribution of investment funds in order to bring the distribution of funds into agreement with the pre-defined allocation rules.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein the recommended actions include the provision of recommended buy and sell orders with respect to particular securities.

39. (Original) A method according to either claim 37 wherein the method includes the step of providing a simulated valuation of the intermediate allocations and the funds invested with individual asset manager programs that would most likely result from executing the recommended actions.

40. (Original) In a data communications network including communication devices enabling communication between a user and a funds investment system, a method of managing invested funds that have been allocated to a plurality of asset manager programs through a network of intermediate allocations, the most subordinate allocations representing the allocation of funds to an asset manager program with all superior intermediate allocations effected external to any asset manager program, with each intermediate allocation according with a predefined rule communicated to the system by the user, the funds investment system performing the method steps of:

obtaining data relating to the value of funds allocated to the plurality of asset manager programs;

calculating the intermediate allocations that would have led to the distribution of funds to individual asset manager programs according to the value data obtained;

comparing the calculated intermediate allocations with the pre-defined rules for same; and

in the event that a predefined variance between the calculated intermediate allocation and the predefined rule for same is exceeded, calculating a new allocation of funds to asset managers in accordance with the pre-defined rules for intermediate allocations.

41. (Original) A method according to claim 40 wherein the requirement to perform a new calculation of funds distribution to asset managers is communicated to the user as warning that action is required to maintain the integrity of the pre-defined intermediate allocation rules.

42. (Original) A method according to claim 40 wherein the funds investment system determines the options available to effect the new distribution of funds and communicates same to the user for consideration.

43. (Original) A method according to claim 42 wherein the user selects at least one of the available options and communicates the selection to the funds investment system, said funds investment system upon receiving said selection effecting transfer of funds to effect the new distribution of funds.

44.-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A funds investment system according to claim ~~[[1]]~~15 wherein the intermediate allocations are grouped to define categories of allocations said categories being individually managed by a computing means in operable communication with the calculating means such that the computing means receives data relating to the amount of funds allocated to each intermediate allocation and/or each allocation category.

67. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium according to claim ~~[[19]]~~27 wherein intermediate allocations are grouped to define categories of allocations, the computer program including code for reporting the amount of funds allocated to each intermediate allocation and/or allocation category thus enabling the allocation categories to be individually managed.

68. (Currently Amended) A method according to either claims ~~26, 44, 59, or 64~~40 wherein intermediate allocations are grouped to define categories of allocations, the method

including the step of reporting the amount of funds allocated to each intermediate allocation and/or allocation category thus enabling the allocation categories to be individually managed.